

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KANEDA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/446,809

Filed: December 23, 1999

For: LITHIUM SECONDARY BATTERY

Group:

Examiner:



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 23, 2000

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claim to the application:

--12. A lithium secondary battery according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein at least one of the current collector of the negative electrode and the current collector of the positive electrode has on its surface a layer of a metal having a higher hardness than that of a base metal of said at least one of the current collector of the negative electrode and the current collector of the positive electrode.--

**REMARKS**

The application papers as filed on December 23, 1999, for the above-identified application, are noted. The claims included therein were claims 1-5 and 7-11; claim 6 was inadvertently omitted therefrom.

By the present Preliminary Amendment, the intended claim 6 is now being added to the application. Moreover, consistent with the rules of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, this intended claim 6 is being added as claim 12, the next numbered claim for the above-identified application. Clearly, this newly added claim is supported by Applicants' original disclosure. Note, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 of Applicants' specification.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the presently added claim, and examination of the above-identified application on the merits in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.38038X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



William I. Solomon  
Registration No. 28,565

WIS/slk  
Tel.: 703-312-6600

044600.000702